



Typhoon Newsletter

Department of Pacific Areas, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States



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FREE

“GET IT DONE”

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Inputs for the April Typhoon
Are due on 05 May 2019.

30 APRIL 2019

DEADLINE!

- OUTSTANDING POST AWARDS
- CONVENTION BOOK ADS

DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS CONVENTION

09 – 13 June 2019

will be held at the

Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan

Hosted by: VFW POST 3457

RESERVATION DEADLINE: 01 JUNE 2019

<http://www.vfwdeptpacific.org/index.php/registration>



Department Officer's Comments & Department Committee Reports

From the Commander:

Comrades,

The Department of Pacific Areas membership program continues to move ahead nicely. The DPA is in 6th place in the VFW National Standings with 11,950 members or 101.71%. We have 20 Posts and 5 Districts that are at or over 100%.

April is "crunch month" since we have many things coming due on April 30th. SVC Farris is tracking the All-State & All-American requirements for this administrative year. Be sure to read his article in the issue. He shows your current membership status as well as your total program requirements on a "Dashboard" he has put together. Two hard requirements are the CSR Reporting and all Audits through 31 March 2019. There is NO WAIVER for these two items so please make sure you submit your completed requirements to the various DPA Program Chairs and to the DPA SVC. Stay on top and track your numbers. Don't let your Post or District fall out of the Top 50 or Top 25, respectively.



The Commander in Chief Vincent "BJ" Lawrence will be in the Philippines on 17 thru 21 April 2019. It is a short trip since he arrives late on the 17th and departs early morning on the 21st from Manila Airport. He is scheduled to meet with as many VFW Members as possible in his short stay. There will be a social at VFW Post 2485 and a Clark Veterans Cemetery Tour on the 18th of April. On the 19th he will be in the Subic Bay area to meet the members of Post 11447. He will be back in Angeles on the 20th for a few more events during the morning and early afternoon and then a leadership dinner in the evening. We still have a few details to work out but one of the events will be an award presentation for 2 Boys Scouts from Troop 2485 from 1:30pm – 2:00pm. CinC BJ will depart very early on Easter Sunday. Some have asked about the trip being scheduled during Holy Week but that was the way his 17 Day Asia Trip worked out. He will travel to Hawaii, Guam, Philippines, Taiwan and Korea.

Have you registered for the DPA Convention? Registration is up and running on the DPA Website. Please go online and register as soon as possible. Get your shirt order in so that the Convention Committee will have your size and the number of shirts you wish to order. Finally, flight bookings are filling up fast. So get your airline tickets early.

The VFW National Convention Housing Registration is still open. We have had a number of DPA members already register. If you have been to a previous VFW National Convention – then you know how much fun you will have with your fellow comrades. If this is your first time – I can assure you that you will love Orlando since there is so much to do! I have spent many years there and still did not have enough time to see it all. Hope to see a big turn-out from the DPA membership this year!

You can contact me anytime by email or F/B Messenger if you have questions or you just need to talk with me. Have a safe and prosperous New Year! Please keep working hard and let's continue to "GET IT DONE".

Team DPA continues to Rock!

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Michael R. (Mike) Verville
Commander
Department of Pacific Areas – 2018/2019

"GET IT DONE"

From the Senior Vice Commander:

Comrades,

We are now entering the home stretch for All-State qualifications. Assuming they make their April CSR reports and March Audit, I show the following posts on the brink of qualifying for All-State: 1054, 9612, 10223, 12147, 12146, 12163, and 3457. Also, for Districts, 2, 3, and 5. The attached chart indicates what you may be missing. This is up-to-date with my latest information from the respective Chairmen. If you think you have met the requirement in a certain area, contact them, and CC me on the correction. Make sure you get your audits for March into Pete, and check your CSR entries through April. Don't wait until the last minute. You can ensure it gets corrected by forwarding me your Post or District All-State Checklist. Remember, we need these in by the end of the month to be recognized at the Department convention. Getting the All-State caps in before June is a challenge. Last year, they did not arrive on time.



Memberships continue to amaze me. 20 Posts and 5 Districts have exceeded 100%! Great job by all involved. As a Department were are currently, as of April 1st, 101.53%, and #6 in Department standings. We have numerous Posts and Districts in great shape in their Division to make a run at All-American, as well as our great Department.

For Veterans Assistance, I still have a few. I received none for the month of March, and a few more to grant, if needed.

I will be out of the area for a few days this month, while I attend the SVC Conference in Kansas City. I am really looking forward to this event. Speaking of VFW Nat'l, JVCinC Hal Roesch will be attending the Convention in Saipan, and be the Installation Officer. And it now appears Rick Butler, and possibly some other members of his Membership team, may accompany him to better understand how Nat'l could help out our unique recruiting situations throughout the Pacific.

Yours in Comradeship,

Rick Farris,
Senior Vice Commander
Department of Pacific Areas
svcdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org

All-State & All-American 2018-19



MEMSTATS as of APRIL 1, 2019

Post	Dst	Life	New	Reins	Cont	Total	Adjusted	Percent	Div	City	N/R	Prior	Retention	N/R %
9723	1	735	3	3	21	762	709	107.47%	2	OKINAWA	4	34	61.76%	1.41%
0	1	735	3	3	21	762	709	107.47%	6		4			1.41%
1054	2	779	4	8	10	801	772	103.75%	1	YOKOSUKA C	12	32	46.88%	3.11%
9555	2	365	1	0	6	372	361	103.04%	2	YOKOTA AFB	5	24	20.83%	1.66%
9612	2	510	17	2	19	548	522	104.98%	2	CAMP ZAMA	23	48	47.92%	8.05%
0	2	1654	22	10	35	1721	1655	103.98%	4		40			4.35%
8180	3	1664	96	37	79	1876	2024	92.68%	1	SONGTAN-S	22	392	17.60%	7.66%
9985	3	213	36	3	28	280	273	102.56%	3	TONGDUCH	4	72	37.50%	15.75%
10033	3	497	6	1	17	521	551	94.55%	2	TAEGU	1	50	40.00%	1.45%
10223	3	321	64	3	13	401	354	113.27%	3	CAMP HUMI	30	94	25.53%	27.40%
12147	3	192	55	2	9	258	236	109.32%	4	SEONGNAM	17	74	21.62%	31.36%
0	3	2887	257	46	146	3336	3438	97.03%	2		74			10.97%
9957	4	391	0	0	0	391	359	108.91%	2	TAIPEI	0	11	90.91%	0.00%
0	4	391	0	0	0	391	359	108.91%	6		0			0.00%
9876	5	353	9	3	25	390	402	97.01%	2	PATTAYA CI	4	45	62.22%	3.98%
9951	5	227	7	1	14	249	248	100.40%	3	BANGKOK	5	25	64.00%	5.24%
10217	5	141	3	0	12	156	142	109.85%	6	KORAT AF B	1	16	87.50%	2.82%
10249	5	235	3	0	19	257	251	102.39%	3	UDORN	2	29	93.10%	1.99%
11575	5	106	4	0	14	124	121	102.47%	6	PHNOM PEN	0	21	76.19%	3.31%
12074	5	96	3	0	7	106	106	100.00%	7	CHIANG MA	4	14	50.00%	6.60%
12146	5	192	2	1	7	202	163	123.92%	5	BAN CHANG	22	14	57.14%	15.34%
12163	5	43	1	0	3	47	42	111.90%	10	PERTH	7	10	40.00%	19.05%
0	5	1393	32	5	101	1531	1475	103.79%	4		45			5.56%
1509	6	332	1	0	8	341	358	95.25%	2	YIGO	2	32	31.25%	0.84%
2917	6	198	5	0	15	218	233	93.56%	4	AGAT	46		36.96%	4.72%
3457	6	284	5	1	12	302	284	106.33%	3	SAIPAN	29	39	48.72%	12.32%
0	6	814	11	1	35	861	875	98.40%	6		37			5.60%
124	7	196	0	0	0	196	177	110.73%	5	BAGUIO CIT	22	1	100.00%	12.43%
2485	7	1639	16	1	39	1695	1665	101.80%	1	ANGELES CI	34	75	70.67%	3.06%
9892	7	240	0	0	1	241	233	103.43%	4	BAUANG	2	4	50.00%	0.86%
11447	7	522	7	3	8	540	483	111.80%	2	SUBIC BAY	36	21	100.00%	9.52%
12130	7	74	0	0	11	85	117	72.64%	6	CEBU	6	50	30.00%	5.13%
0	7	2671	23	4	59	2757	2675	103.06%	3		100			4.75%
15055	99	526	11	2	30	569	562	101.24%	2	PACIFIC ARE	15			4.98%
0	99	526	11	2	30	569	562	101.24%	6		15			4.98%
0	255	11071	359	71	427	11928	11748	101.53%			315			6.34%

All-State Requirements

Post/District	Membership	Legacy	Insp	QMB	SO	Audit	CSR	VPT	BP	Week	WelcomeH	AAU	NH	VMS	TRNG	FB/Web	Complete
D1																	
9723		1															
D2																	
1054		1U															
9555																	
9612		2U															
D3																	
8180		2															
9985		1															
10033																	
10223		1+1U															
12147		1															
D4																	
9957																	
D5																	
9876																	
9951	Curr1, 2, 4,																
10217		1															
10249		1															
11575		1															
12074		1															
12146		3+3U															
12163		1															
D6																	
1509																	
2917																	
3457		1U															
D7																	
124		1															
2485		2+2U															
9892		1U															
11447		1															
12130																	

	Complete		
	On Track, not complete		
	Delinquent		
	Missing entries		

For the Weekly, Welcome Home, and AAU, only one is required.

From the Junior Vice Commander:

Greetings Comrades,

We have received award recommendation from many of our Districts and they are now in the hands of the Judging Committee which is comprised of the Department SVC, JVC, QM, ADJ, COS, and JPDC. The awards will be presented at the Convention in Saipan. Thank you for recognizing the hard work and dedication of our members and friends of the various posts.

April is the final month for reporting CSRs. All reports must be entered on the DPA website's CSR data base no later than 30 April. Please ensure you have submitted at least three entries per month in order to be eligible for All State consideration. The latest status of the CSRs is listed at the end of this report.

Again, thank you all for all your hard work, dedication and great things you have done for veterans, their families, and our communities.

With warmest best wishes.

Yours in comradeship and service to veterans,

Kenneth A. Stein
Junior Vice Commander
Department of Pacific Areas



CSR Reports as of 01 April 2019

Post	Dist	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
9723	1	13	13	11	15	14	15	10	12	14	13	15	0	145
1054	2	16	9	17	10	8	10	31	19	8	16	13	0	157
9555		24	18	16	18	17	16	19	15	14	1	16	0	174
9612		10	11	7	7	33	61	32	23	17	12	24	0	237
8180	3	34	30	42	39	41	23	36	20	17	22	27	0	331
9985		16	10	11	13	8	7	10	11	10	4	8	0	108
10033		3	4	3	4	0	3	5	3	3	3	3	0	34
10223		14	16	10	10	15	8	15	9	7	9	7	0	120
12147		8	8	8	6	7	10	15	15	8	11	10	0	106
9957	4	5	0	0	2	1	8	1	0	1	0	0	0	18
9876	5	13	29	52	15	23	18	11	6	12	9	9	0	197
9951		20	21	21	25	22	31	21	13	16	25	23	0	238
10217		17	31	27	31	20	22	28	31	27	37	23	0	294
10249		10	6	8	9	6	6	10	8	4	5	6	0	78
11575		3	3	3	4	3	4	3	3	3	3	0	0	32
12074		8	10	12	11	17	11	10	8	9	0	0	0	96

12146	6	11	24	20	36	23	28	31	22	27	30	26	0	278
12163		15	14	16	16	11	14	13	5	13	18	13	0	148
1509		7	3	4	3	3	8	3	3	4	3	4	0	45
2917	6	50	8	11	12	13	21	4	7	9	11	6	0	152
3457		9	6	7	3	8	7	25	19	6	5	11	0	106
124	7	17	10	8	16	22	20	16	13	4	11	14	0	151
2485		141	128	134	122	110	142	128	122	127	111	115	0	1380
9892		60	64	4	65	33	51	37	41	41	38	28	0	462
11447		8	5	4	10	10	3	5	11	3	12	10	0	81
12130		2	2	5	6	3	4	1	3	4	1	0	0	31
Total		534	483	461	508	471	511	520	442	408	410	411	0	5199

From the Junior Past Department Commander:

Comrades,

We are closing fast on 12,000 Department members, and may have attained this long time goal prior to publication. Of these over 11,000 are Life members, contributing markedly to the long term success of the Department, and lessening the yearly stress of recruiting and renewals. Your efforts have brought us to this point and we can all take pride in these notable achievements.

Although we are focused on closing out an exceptionally successful year, we also need to consider getting next year off to a strong start. The following are among those things that will need to be accomplished:

- Following elections, submit your Election Reports to VFW National. Posts and Districts not submitting by 1 June may be suspended.
- Also following your elections, submit General Order Number 1 to the Department Adjutant. These are the source documents for Department Memo Number 1. Late submissions delay publication of this needed document.
- Prior to the Department Convention insure all your new Officers and Committee Chairmen are well versed in their duties. Due to our geographic dispersion we have no consolidated training classes as do some other Departments. It is incumbent upon each Post and District to prepare those new to their positions. The VFW National website has training materials and references.
- If you are planning a major Community Service Project using VFW National Foundation Grant funds, you may want to start planning now and complete prior to mid-year. National allocates a set amount each year and usually starts accepting applications in September.

If I can be of assistance, please contact me at pdcgilbert@vfwdeptpacific.org

Yours in Comradeship & Service,

John Gilbert
Junior Past Department Commander
Department of Pacific Areas



Get It Done!

From the Adjutant:

Greetings,

Our DPA Convention is in two months, June 9-13 in Saipan. If you are planning to attend, please register on the Department website at: www.vfwdeptpacific.org

On the left side click on the tab "Convention 2019" and complete your registration. This is the ONLY method to register for our Convention.

VFW National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Hal Roesch II, will be the National Representative at our Convention.



April is the month for Post and District elections. Once the election is finished, do not forget to file the Election Report with VFW National. Quartermasters are encouraged to use the on-line OMS system with National to file the Election Report.

Also, following the elections and completions of additional Officer appointments, please complete your General Orders, as soon as practical, and forward those completed General Orders to me at: adjdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org. I use the General Orders to complete the DPA MEMO ONE. The DPA MEMO ONE is used to update the official emailing account addresses within the Department website.

Thank you.

Jerry Chaplin
Adjutant
Department of Pacific Areas

From the Chaplain:

Comrades,

Deceased Members:

Alfred H. Braswell, Life Member of Post 8180, died 21 Sep 18.

Other:

For those who does not received the VFW Calendar, let's remember the following dates:

Sunday 7 April 2019 – Daylight Savings Time

Sunday 14 April 2019 – Palm Sunday

Sunday 21 April 2019 – Easter Sunday

Pray for the families of those who made the ultimate sacrifice during these eventful days.

Post Commanders and Chaplains Report any fatalities to me at the below email address:

Contact Info: davisronald738@gmail.com .

Yours in Comradeship,

Ron Davis
Chaplain
Department of Pacific Areas



From the Quartermaster:

Comrades,

We are on track to have a record number of Districts (5) and Posts (19) achieve All-State status by the early cutoff date of April 30, 2019. All-State Post Commanders receive round-trip airfare to the Department Convention as well as 2 tickets to the Installation Banquet. Along with the Post Quartermaster, they also receive an All-State cap. I have several cap sizes from previous years, but I am still missing some. Please check the chart below, and if your size is missing, send me an email with the correct size so I can order the cap and have it ready (hopefully) for our Convention.



Post/District	Commander	Quartermaster	CDR hat size--QM hat size
District I	Paul Zackeroff	Michael Minton	---
Post 9723	same	same	same
District II	Mike Lutman	Robert Moses	7 1/2 -- 7 1/4
Post 1054	Timothy Anderson	Ricky Farris	-- 7 3/8
Post 9555	Anthony Cohns	Caleb Whitaker	--
Post 9612	William Russell	David Ingram	-- 7 1/8
District III	Warren Maxson	George Beck	7 1/4 --
Post 8180	Leon Ellison	Ron Davis	-- 7 1/4
Post 9985	Vernon Hill	Jeffery Birkle	--
Post 10033	Ken Swierzewski	Richard Hagaman	-- 7 1/4
Post 10223	Donald Kelley	Chris Winstead	7 1/8 --7 1/2
Post 12147	Larry Lyons	Gerald Oliver Sr.	7 1/8 -- 7 1/2
District IV	Scott Ellinger	Cleve Stanton	
Post 9957	same	same	same
District V	Delbert Marohl	Lou Holub	7 3/8 -- 7 1/8
Post 9876	Emmanuel Guarnuccio	Eric Larsen	
Post 9951	Randy Riggs	Jerome Karwaki	--
Post 10217	Phillip Jones	Joel Pierson	-- 7 1/4
Post 10249	Delbert Marohl	Al Fitchett	7 3/8 -- 7
Post 11575	Roy Day	John Muller	7 1/2 -- 7 3/4
Post 10274	Allan Guariano	Roscoe Butler	-- 7 3/8
Post 12146	John Farrell	Daniel Morgan	--
Post 12163	James Maughmer	Jason Bitner	7 -- 7
District VI	Mike O'Kelley	Shawn Watson	6 7/8 -- 7 3/8
Post 1509	Lonnie Clark	Sean Elliott	7 1/2 -- 7 1/2

Post 2917	Shawn Watson	Bill Bradford	7 3/8 -- 7 3/8
Post 3457	Brad Ruzala	Mariano Fajardo	7 1/4 -- 7 1/8
District VII	Alex Fores	Tom Burnett	7 1/4 -- 7 1/2
Post 124	Eduardo Narvaez	Joseph Catacutan	-- 7 1/4
Post 2485	James Collins	Norman Smith	-- 7 1/2
Post 9892	Robert Reyes	Charles Spain	-- 7 1/4
Post 11447	Donald Robbins	Tom Burnett	-- 7 1/2
Post 12130	Yusuf Nuriddin	?	7 1/8 --

Remember that Posts and Districts have until June 30 to fulfill the requirements for All-State status. So don't give up before the end of the VFW year. I have not received the QM Bond rates for the 2019-2020 year, but I should have them this month. I will email each Commander and Quartermaster once the rates are announced.

Convention notes: We asked the hotel to come up with a reasonably priced breakfast menu for our members and guests, and they have done so. There will be 3 menu options, each costing \$6. The regular breakfast buffet is \$10.95, so this is a bargain. The menu will be included in your welcome packet.

The hotel's regular check-in time is 3 PM, but they will accommodate us with an early check-in if the room is ready. In no case will that happen before noon, so if you have an early morning arrival, you may want to book your room one day early. If your wait is only one or two hours, there are several comfortable waiting areas in the lobby. Please register by the end of this month so we can finalize our activity list and let the hotel know how many rooms we'll need. If you reserve an Executive Suite, there is a separate room set aside for breakfast (free) and happy hour snacks.

Finally, please send your Convention Book ads to me by April 30. The completed book needs to go to the printer. Have a great April!

Yours in Comradeship,

Pete Callaghan
Quartermaster
Department of Pacific Areas



2018-2019 POST AND DISTRICT AUDITS/POPPIES/QM BONDS

AUDITS SUBMITTED	JUNE '18	SEP '18	DEC '18	MAR '19	BUDDY POPPIES ORDERED '18-'19	QM BOND ORDERED 2018-'19
9723	X	X	X		\$116/1,000	\$100/\$40,000 Pd F*
District I	X	X	X		X	\$10.50/\$3,000 Pd F*
1054	X	X	X		\$174/1,500	\$125/\$50,000 Pd F*
9555	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$75/\$30,000 Pd F*
9612	X	X			\$58/500	\$65/\$26,000 Pd F*
District II	X	X	X		X	\$17.50/\$5,000 Pd F*
8180	X	X	X		\$116/1,000	\$70/\$28,000 Pd F*
9985	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$65/\$26,000 Pd F*
10033	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$70/\$28,000 Pd F*
10223	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$100/\$40,000 Pd F*
12147	X	X			\$58/500	\$35/\$10,000 Pd F*
District III	X	X	X		X	\$17.50/\$5,000 Pd F*
9957	X	X			\$58/500	\$75/\$30,000 Pd F*
District IV	X	X			X	\$52.50/\$15,000 F*
9876	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$125/\$50,000 Pd F*
9951	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$35/\$10,000 Pd F*
10217	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$42/\$12,000 Pd F*
10249	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$52.50/\$15,000 Pd F*
11575	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$17.50/\$5,000 Pd F*
12074	X	X			\$58/500	\$42/\$12,000 Pd F*
12146	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$125/\$50,000 Pd F*
12163	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$10.50/\$3,000 Pd F*
District V	X	X	X		X	\$59.50/\$17,000 Pd F*
1509					\$58/500	\$175/\$70,000 Pd F*
2917	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$65/\$26,000 Pd F*
3457	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$65/\$26,000 Pd F*
District VI	X	X	X		X	\$10.50/\$3,000 F*
124	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$49/\$14,000 Pd F*
2485	X	X	X	X	\$58/500	\$400/\$160,000 Pd F*
9892	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$42/\$12,000 Pd F*
11447	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$31.50/\$9,000 Pd F*
12130	X	X	X		\$58/500	\$17.50/\$5,000 Pd F*
District VII	X	X	X		X	\$10.50/\$3,000
*F = Bond application form received.						

From the Judge Advocate:

Comrades,

As we prepare to vote in old and new officers. I would like to go over the Master Set of Rules for our organization.

The **Master Set of Rules** for the guidance of all Post activities is the VFW National By-Laws and Manual of Procedures. The By-Laws are the basic rules- The Manual of procedure goes into further detail. These govern all activities of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and are inflexible. They are worded very clearly and they mean just what they say.

Because of the fact that state laws differ and there is a wide variance between Departments in their organizational make-up, most Departments have adopted **Department By-Laws** which apply only to Posts within that Department. These must not conflict with the National By-laws nor can they permit anything which is prohibited by the National By-Laws.

In most cases, Department By-Laws deal with policies to be followed at the Department or District level and do not attempt to go into detail in the operation of the Post. They can impose **more** restrictions of Posts but never **less** than are provided in the National By-Laws.

Naturally, a basic set of rules cannot contain much detail nor can it specifically provide for every possible contingency in every Post – from the little 25 member post which holds a meeting once a month and lives off its dues – to the thousand members Post which owns its own home and conducts dozens of activities in as many different fields.

For that reason, specialized rules must be formulated and adopted to cover specific activities. The more complicated the activity, the more specific the rules must be.

These rules seek to prevent Posts from falling into the common pitfalls of poor planning, deficit financing, loss of control, and illegal operations.

Since the By-Laws are designed to cover a wide range of operations, they cannot – and do not attempt to – specifically detail every move of the post. They are something like a building code. They establish certain minimum requirements but they permit you to build a lot of different kinds of houses.

As a post grows in size and activity, there are certain steps it either should take or must take to protect itself and its officers and avoid future arguments and misunderstandings which can create problems and dissension.

I hope this will help all previous and new incoming officers understand the importance of how our organization is ran with regards to Master Set of Rules.

Election Reports

Report of Elections 2019-2020 should be submitted in a timely manner as follows:

- ☐ Posts – June 1st National and copy to Department and District.
- ☐ Districts – Prior to convening of the Department Convention and National.
- ☐ Department – Prior to convening the National Convention.

In closing congratulations and best wishes with whatever officer position you were elected or appointed. If you have any questions concerning the bylaws and procedures please feel free to contact me at advdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

Robert Mo Moses,
Judge Advocate
Department of Pacific Areas



From the Surgeon:

What is Pancreatic Cancer?

Each evening Post 10223 Comrades gather around the television at our Post Home & Canteen to match wits with Jeopardy contestants and race to provide questions to the answers read by Alex Trebek. Last month after he was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer he took a week off work and then was back continuing to do what he has done for the last 30 years. According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), people with stage 4 pancreatic cancer (the most severe form of the disease) usually have only a 3 percent five-year survival rate. "I plan to beat the low survival rate statistics for this disease," Trebek said, before joking that "I have to because under the terms of my contract, I have to host Jeopardy for three more years."



Prostate cancer is one of the most common types of cancer in men. Usually prostate cancer grows slowly and is initially confined to the prostate gland, where it may not cause serious harm. However, while some types of prostate cancer grow slowly and may need minimal or even no treatment, other types are aggressive and can spread quickly. The problem is that prostate cancer may cause no signs or symptoms in its early stages. Prostate cancer that's more advanced may cause signs and symptoms such as: Trouble urinating, decreased force in the stream of urine, blood in semen, discomfort in the pelvic area, bone pain & erectile dysfunction.

Factors that can increase your risk of prostate cancer include:

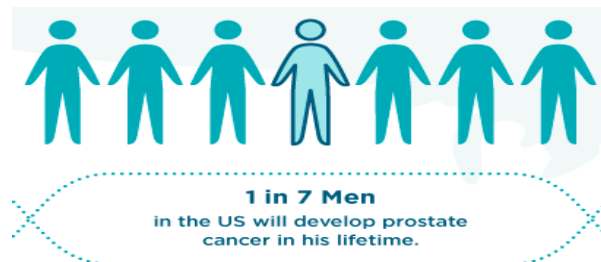
- **Age.** Your risk of prostate cancer increases as you age.
- **Race.** For reasons not yet determined, black men carry a greater risk of prostate cancer than do men of other races. In black men, prostate cancer is also more likely to be aggressive or advanced.
- **Family history.** If men in your family have had prostate cancer, your risk may be increased. Also, if you have a family history of genes that increase the risk of breast cancer (BRCA1 or BRCA2) or a very strong family history of breast cancer, your risk of prostate cancer may be higher.
- **Obesity.** Obese men diagnosed with prostate cancer may be more likely to have advanced disease that's more difficult to treat.

Make an appointment with your doctor if you have any signs or symptoms that worry you. Debate continues regarding the risks and benefits of prostate cancer screening, and medical organizations differ on their recommendations. Discuss prostate cancer screening with your doctor. Together, you can decide what's best for you.

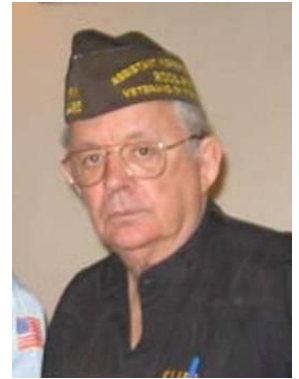
Article resources: Mayo Clinic

Yours in Comradeship & Well-Being,

Brian J. Hamic
Surgeon
Department of Pacific Areas



From the Life Membership Chairman:



Forty new Life Members were added during March, bringing the Department to an all-time high of 11072 Lifers on deck. Life Membership currently represents 92.32 % of total Membership. **GO LIFE!**

For the 2018-2019 year, the Department will provide a free Life Membership or a \$400 stipend for Posts meeting the following criteria:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| A. Posts over 500 Members | Each 10 N/R Life Members recruited |
| B. Posts with 500 Members and under | Each 5 N/R Life Members recruited |
| C. Districts at 100%, a free Life Membership will be awarded. | |
| D. For Posts converting 5 Annual Members to Life Membership, DPA will send the Post \$250 (see DPA Membership Program for details). | |

The following Posts have won DPA paid Life Memberships or \$400 stipends:

<u>Post</u>	<u>Total N/R LM Recruited</u>	<u>Total Awarded</u>
124	22	4 (\$1600)
1054	12	1 (4400)
2485	34	3 (Life Memberships)
2917	6	1 (\$400)
3457	29	5 (\$2000)
8180	23	2 (\$800)
9555	5	1 (\$400)
9612	23	2 (\$800)
9951	5	1 (\$400)
10223	30	6 (\$2400)
11447	36	7 (\$2800)
12130	6	1 (\$400)
12146	22	4 (\$1600)
12147	17	3 (\$1200)
12163	7	1 (\$400)
15055 (At Large)	15	None

Yours in Comradeship,

Cliff Wilsey,
Life Membership Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas

From the Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen / Teacher's Award Chairman:



Comrades,

The earlier we get the word out the better. Let's get a jump start and take this opportunity to promote the 2019 - 2020 Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen / Teachers award program before the spring and summer school breaks. Start making your preparations and contacts with schools and students in your areas. A student can enter even if the school does not want to participate in the program. If you have no schools in your area, students who are home schooled or enrolled in international schools can participate as long as they are a U.S. citizen.

The theme this year for both Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen programs is: **"What Makes America Great"**

Voice of Democracy Rules and Eligibility can be found by going to: [VOD Rules and Eligibility](#). The Voice of Democracy Entry Form can be found by going to: [VOD Entry Form](#).

Patriot's Pen Rules and Eligibility can be found by going to: [PP Rules and Eligibility](#). The Patriot's Pen Entry Form can be found by going to: [PP Entry Form](#).

To assist the students, have them watch the 2018-2019 winners deliver their essays by going to: [VFW Legislative Conference](#); scroll down and select either the "2018-2019 Voice of Democracy Winner" or the "2018-2019 Patriot's Pen Winner" video.

Let's not forget about the Smart / Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. The Entry Form can be found by going to: [Teacher Award Entry Form](#).

District and Post Commanders; as you look at appointments in the upcoming elections, appoint a VOD / PP / Teacher Award Chairman that wants to **Make it Happen and Get It done**.

"VFW – Make It Happen, Get It Done"

Yours in comradeship and service,

Don Kelley
Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen / Teacher Award Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas
vodppdpa@vfwdeptpacific.org
Phone: +82-10-2442-8938



From the Legislative Committee Chairman:

Just a reminder, time is almost up in which to get your post's All-State requirements done, and one of our requirements for All-State and All-American is as follows:

Post participation in one or more of the following activities:

1. Support an ongoing "VFW Action Corps Weekly" registration drive reporting to the Department National Legislative Chairman.

OR

2. Hold a Deployment or Welcome Home event (Department will help fund via the Department Veterans & Military Support Chairman).

OR

3. Adopt a Unit, reporting to the Department Veterans & Military Support Chairman. to either



If it is difficult for your post to hold a Welcome Home Event or Adopt a Unit, then holding a VFW Action Corps Weekly is a simple and relatively easy task to accomplish. Once you complete the drive, please email me at the below email address.

Currently, **Posts 10217, 9892, 10219, 1054, and 11447** are the only posts to report to me completion of their Action Corps Weekly membership drive.

Holding the drive is not merely a checkmark, though. The weekly is the best way that we, as VFW members, can keep track of legislative action that matters to the VFW and all vets. So even if your post has completed either of the second two requirements, I urge all posts to still hold their registration drive.

Here are some of the current legislative highlights concerning vets:

1. **VA Ordered to Lift Hold on Blue Water Navy Appeals:** VA was recently ordered to lift its hold on Blue Water Navy appeals as a result of the recent Procopio v. Wilkie court decision. The VFW-supported Procopio decision clarified that Blue Water Navy Vietnam War veterans are eligible to receive presumptive disability compensation benefits for health conditions associated with exposure to Agent Orange. After the decision was issued on January 29, 2019, VA requested a stay, which places a hold on Blue Water Navy claims and appeals while the agency deliberated whether to appeal the decision. VA's request to stay Blue Water Navy claims was denied and VA is now forced to start taking action on appeals. This means veterans affected by the Procopio decision may see activity on their appeals in the near future. The VFW urges Blue Water Navy veterans who receive notice of action on their claims to contact a VFW-accredited Service Officer at: www.vfw.org/NVS. The Department of Justice still has until April 29, 2019, to formally appeal. Moreover, the Procopio decision still leaves certain questions unanswered for Blue Water Navy veterans and others exposed to Agent Orange. This is why the VFW continues to urge for the swift passage of H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019. Urge your members of Congress to [cosponsor and support passage of H.R. 299](#).
2. **VFW Testifies on Budget Request:** This week, VFW National Legislative Service Deputy Director Patrick Murray testified before the House Committee on Appropriations and House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, VA, and Related Agencies. Alongside Mr. Murray was DAV and PVA who co-author the Independent Budget. Together, they advocated for increased funding for veteran health care and benefits. Specifically, the IB questioned whether VA has requested the funds it needs to properly implement the VFW-championed VA MISSION Act and sufficient funding to update VA's ageing infrastructure. The VFW also urged Congress to fix the unacceptable housing conditions at privatized military housing facilities throughout the country and repair military installations that were damaged by recent natural disasters. [Read the Independent Budget](#). Watch the [House Committee on Veterans' Affairs hearing](#). Watch the [House Appropriations Subcommittee hearing](#).

3. **Fiscal Year 2020 Budget for Veterans' Programs:** On Tuesday, March 26, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie testified before a Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs hearing regarding the president's Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 budget request for VA. Secretary Wilkie supported the president's 7.5 percent increase of VA's budget and discussed how it enables VA to improve customer service and implement the numerous recently enacted and VFW-supported laws such as the VA MISSION Act, the Forever GI Bill, and the Appeals Modernization Act. Secretary Wilkie also announced that VA has recommended the president drop the Blue Water Navy legal battle and start providing long-overdue benefits to veterans exposed to Agent Orange while serving off the coast of Vietnam. Committee members expressed concerns with VA's reduction in funds for construction despite having a \$60 billion construction backlog and VA's plans to rely more heavily on private sector doctors. VA also indicated it would make a decision within the next three months on benefits for bladder cancer, hypertension, Parkinson's-like symptoms, and hypothyroidism related to Agent Orange exposure. The VFW and its Independent Budget (IB) coauthors submitted testimony opposing VA's proposal to round-down cost-of-living adjustments for compensation benefits and encouraging Congress to properly fund veterans' care and benefits. [Watch the hearing](#), which starts at the 23-minute mark. [Read the IB testimony](#).
4. **Bill Introduced to Stop Veterans from Being Punished for VA's Miscalculations:** The week of 19 March, Senators Tester (D-Mont.), Boozman (R-Ark.), and Brown (D-Ohio), introduced the VFW-supported Veterans Debt Fairness Act, which would reduce VA overpayment errors and require VA to hold itself — not veterans — accountable for its mistakes. [Learn more or read the bill](#).
5. **Army SSG Receives Posthumous Medal of Honor:** On Wednesday, March 27, President Trump presented the Medal of Honor posthumously to the son of Army Staff Sgt. Travis Atkins, of Bozeman, Mont., who was killed in action southwest of Baghdad after using his body to shield three other soldiers from a suicide bomber on June 1, 2007. Watch video of the White House ceremony [here](#).

Comrades, this concludes my report on legislative matters concerning veterans. If you have any questions you may contact me at cortier79@hotmail.com.

Yours in Comradeship,

Jonathan Brazee
Legislative Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas



From the Roving Ambassador:

Hello Comrades,

Looks like the Department is strong and performing well in all Programs. Almost time for us to bring it home from another term! Let's stay the course for another banner year!

This will be a busy month!!! As the Department Roving Ambassador I will attend an Annual Chili Cook Off and other events from April 6-7 in San Antonio, Philippines. Several of District VII Post will be bringing their finest Chili to the completion and I sure do not want to miss it!!! I will also be attending DV's District Convention in Chiang Mai, Thailand on April 20th. Finally I will be appearing at the DII's District Convention in Tokyo, Japan on April 27th.

Just for the record Wednesday, April 10th is the 100th of the year and a great day...HA!!!

Again, please feel free to contact me at pgcmitchell@vfwdeptpacific.org if I can be of any assistance.

In closing, please continue to take care of yourselves and your families. May God continue to bless you, your families, and the good ole USA!!

Yours in Comradeship,

Kevin E. Mitchell
Roving Ambassador
Department of Pacific Areas
"Get it Done"



From the Americanism and Loyalty Day Chairman:

Comrades,

April is the recognized as the Month of the Military Child. As the nation and the Armed Forces prepare for the future, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) must anticipate the evolving needs of Veterans and Families. The VFW will continue to refine child and youth programs and services to meet changing needs to ensure healthy, ready, and self-reliant Military Members, Veterans and Families.

There are other very important celebrations during the month of April. On 14 April, we also celebrate the Air Force Reserve Birthday. On 23 April, we celebrate the Army Reserve Birthday. Over the years, veterans from both of these groups have served in every major conflict including WWI, WWII, Korea and more recently Iraq and Afghanistan, among others. They have also aided in humanitarian missions and disasters. During this month, take the time to recognize the contributions made by these two groups of Veterans. Happy Birthday Air Force and Army Reserves! VFW is proud of you and thanks you for your services to this Nation.

The VFW remains committed to honoring the service and sacrifices of those who serve our nation, including our Military Families. Take every opportunity to recognize, applaud, and celebrate the dedication of our Service Men and Women - and their families- as they are at the center of ensuring our future.

Yours in Comradeship,

William Russell
Americanism and Loyalty Chairman
Department of Pacific Areas





Letters of Intent – 2019-2020 VFW Year

LETTER OF INTENT For VFW Department of Pacific Areas Junior Vice Commander 2019-2020 KEVIN E. MITCHELL



Dear Comrades of the Department of Pacific Areas,

This letter is to officially inform you that I will be a candidate for Department JVC for the 2019-20 year. I have served 20 years in the US Air Force retiring in September 2000 and over 14 years as a Civil Service employee retiring on 30 September. I have also served four years as a DOD Contractor. Joining the VFW in May 1993, this past May 2018 I am proud to have marked my 25th year as a member of this great Veterans organization and last December 2018 marked my 25th year as a Life Member. I am also a Gold Legacy Life Member.

As a Life Member of Post 9555, I have served in most positions to include Post Commander from 2005-08. On the District II level, I have also served in most positions to include District Commander from 2005-07. On the Department level, I was recognized by National CINC's James Goldsmith and Raymond Sisk as an Outstanding Department Buddy Poppy Chairman for 2002-03 serving as Department Chairman for two years, a two-year appointment on the Audit Committee, two years as Inspector, three years as Officer of the Day, and five years as Roving Ambassador (to include this year). At National, I have been appointed Aide de Camp four years, served on the National Legislature Committee as a Buddy Poppy Representative, and has attended four National Conventions to include this past year's in Kansas City. I have also served as Grand Commander of the Pacific Areas from 2012-13.

I have been attending to the Department Conventions and Council of Administrations since June 1999. During this 19-year period I have only missed one of each, the Department Convention in 2009 because I had a mandatory PCS to Colorado Springs and the 2001 C of A because my Commander was being cautious due to the aftermath of 9/11. The majority of my attendance was paid out of pocket whether I was in Japan, Colorado Springs, and the United Kingdom, thus I feel I have proven my dedication, loyalty, and commitment to the Department and the VFW.

I have always been a "team player" and I believe it will serve me well if I have the honor of being selected as the Department JVC. I realize that I am not only being elected JVC, but a future Department Commander with all the responsibilities that comes with the position. I believe with the support of our strong PDC's and the Comrades of the Pacific Areas, you will ensure the Department will continue to be successful.

On 30 September 2018, I retired from DOD Civil Service and returned to the Pacific Areas to live, currently in Angeles City. This should put to rest and let everyone know that I will be able to honor my commitments to the Department, if elected. I have lived away from the Pacific Areas since April 2009.

In closing, with great humility I ask for your support for the position of Department JVC for the 2019-2020 year. Thank you for your time and I can be reached at pgcmitchell@vfwdeptpacific.org for any questions.

Yours in Comradeship and Service,

///SIGNED///

Kevin E. Mitchell
Candidate for Department of Junior Vice Commander

LETTER OF INTENT
Department Quartermaster
2019-2020

PETER CALLAGHAN



Comrades of the Pacific Areas,

I am asking for your support to continue as your Department Quartermaster for one final year.

When I first started as your QM, I had two primary goals in mind. First, I hoped to make the budget process consistent and predictable. We were spending more money than was coming in, and we needed to reign in expenses. By looking at every area of excess spending and making a few changes, we were able to accomplish this goal. We have increased our cash reserves by about \$60,000 in the past 7 years.

Second, I hoped to direct more of our money into a few of the primary goals of the VFW – increasing membership and helping veterans. Sending Posts stipends for recruiting Life Members and converting Annual to Life membership has become a major part of our budget every year. And our Veterans Assistance Program went from \$6,000 last year to \$10,000 this year.

We have money for emergencies and enough money in investments to keep the Department running for over a year with no other income. But a budget is a fluid thing, and needs constant attention. Everyone has good ideas on how to spend money. Few come up with ideas on how to replace it.

Your trust in me to handle the Department's finances has been greatly appreciated. I take the responsibility very seriously. So I humbly ask you to allow me to continue in this position for one more year. After that, I hope to continue to serve you and our Department in other ways.

I sincerely thank you for your support.

Yours in Comradeship,

Peter Callaghan

**LETTER OF INTENT
Seeking 2nd Term as
Department Chaplain 2019-2020**

RONALD J. DAVIS



Comrades,

The purpose of this letter is to announce my intent and desire to run for the position of Department of Pacific Areas Chaplain for a 2nd Term (2019-2020). I believe I have all the qualifications to excel in this position and pledge my full commitment. I successfully served as both Post 10216 Commander and 3-time All American District III Commander. I greatly desire to expand my work with the Department believe I will serve you well.

- Currently serving as DPA Chaplain
- Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Past Post Commander and Life member of VFW Post 10216 -- total commitment to the VFW and our cause
- Past 3-Time All American District Commander, Senior Vice Commander of District III Korea; and served with distinction as the Junior Vice Commander
- Served as Department of Pacific Deputy Inspector, Past Department Surgeon and Past Department Chaplain, Past Department Americanism Chairman
- Served on numerous District and Post Committees, to include Youth Activities, Americanism, and House Rules
- Currently serving as Post Quartermaster. Have been All American and All State Quartermaster
- Participated in the Armed Forces Day Parade at Osan and the Korean American friendship festival for the past eighteen years
- Was VFW National Aide-de-Camp 2016-2017 and has been named as VFW National Aide-de-Camp for 2017-2018
- Currently serving as Grand Junior Vice Commander
- Currently serving as Grand and Department Deputy Inspector

If elected, I pledge that I will exert all my efforts in expanding the success of the Department of Pacific. My efforts in both the VFW and Grand have been tireless.

//Original Signed//

Ronald J. Davis
Grand JVC



**LETTER OF INTENT
Department Surgeon
2019-2020**

BRIAN J. HAMIC



Comrades:

I am writing to officially notify all DPA Districts & Posts of my candidacy and desire to serve another year as Department Surgeon. I am a retired soldier and a life member of the VFW. This past VFW year, I served as Jr. Vice Commander and Public Affairs Officer for Post 10223 in Korea, and as Department of Pacific Areas Surgeon and Publicity Chairman.

I am a strong believer in the VFW's Mission and I have committed myself to ensuring that my performance in each position I hold leads to success in helping to meet my Post, District, Department and the VFW's goals and mission.

If re-elected Surgeon, I pledge to continue to source informative and practical information that I will pass along to each of you monthly in the Typhoon and on our Official Communications FB page. I also vow to continue to fully support and assist our DPA Commander, other officers and all the members of our Department throughout the 2019-2020 year.

I humbly request & hope for your votes and look forward to seeing you all in Saipan in June!

Yours in Comradeship and Well-Being,
Brian J. Hamic